

CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An animal feeder, comprising: a hopper for storing animal feed and having at least one opening for releasing the animal feed, a [[substantially horizontal]] horizontally oriented rotatable distribution [[controller]] wheel rotatable about its vertical axis, disposed to encounter and scatter the animal feed, rotatably connected to the hopper and having an opening so that feed is released when the opening in the distribution controller rotates into alignment with the opening in the hopper~~[[;]]~~, a stirrer supported by the distribution controller and rotatably mounted within the hopper and coupled to the rotation transfer means to encounter the animal feed stored therein and guide the feed into the hole in the hopper ~~[[;]]~~, a wheel supporting the animal feeder and adapted to rotate when the feeder is moved~~[[;]]~~, and rotation transfer means for imparting the rotation of the wheel to the distribution controller and causing animal feed to be released as the feeder is moved, the distribution controller being configured to distribute the animal feed in a manner such that an animal proximate to the feeder is entertained and exercised in fetching the animal feed.
2. (Amended) A feeder according to claim 1, wherein the opening of the hopper is at the bottom of the hopper.
3. (Original) A feeder according to claim 1, further comprising: a handle for controlling movement of the animal feeder.
4. (Original) A feeder according to claim 1, further comprising: a second wheel connected to the wheel with an axle.
5. (Original) A feeder according to claim 4, wherein the rotation transfer means comprises: a set of gears connected to the axle and imparting the axle's rotation to a center peg.
6. (Deleted) ~~A feeder according to claim 1, further comprising: a distribution wheel disposed to encounter and scatter the released animal feed.~~
7. (Currently amended) A feeder according to claim ~~[[6]]~~ 1 further comprising: a guidance member, disposed between the distribution controller and the distribution wheel for guiding released food to the distribution wheel.
8. (Deleted) ~~A feeder according to claim 1, further comprising: a stirrer rotatably mounted within the hopper and coupled to the rotation transfer means to encounter the animal feed stored therein and guide the feed into the hole in the hopper.~~
9. (Original) A feeder according to claim 1, further comprising: a parking peg movably attached to the animal feeder and adapted to hold the feeder upright if the parking peg is in a parked position.

10. (Deleted) A method of entertaining and exercising an animal, the method comprising: moving a feed dispenser in a first path; and dispensing feed from the feed dispenser such that the feed is distributed along a second path, the second path differing from the first path, such that the animal substantially follows the first path, deviating therefrom as needed to fetch the feed distributed along the second path.

11. (Deleted) A method as set forth in claim 10, wherein the second path is characterized in having random deviations from the first path.

